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§ 294. **Death of Robert H. Brownne.**—We have to mourn the loss of an ardent lover of botanical science, in the death of Robert H. Brownne, which occurred Feb. 15, 1879, by apoplexy. He was born in this city August 3, 1810. His father was a prominent ship-builder in the earlier part of the century, being the head of the firm of Brownne & Bell, who modelled and constructed for Robert Fulton the "Clermont," the first steamboat which navigated the Hudson River. Young Brownne had an ardent thirst for knowledge, and made good use of the advantages which he enjoyed at the New York High School, in which he was educated, and in which he for many years held a position as teacher. That institution was then under the charge of Dr. John Griscom and Rev. Daniel H. Barnes, both of them men of solid learning, "apt to teach," and well versed in physical and natural science, which previous to this period had been little taught in schools. Their enthusiasm in this direction and their personal magnetism gave most of their pupils a decided bent towards the study of nature. In early life Mr. Brownne was threatened with pulmonary disease, for which his physician prescribed active exercise in the open country. With the predilection acquired at school, it is not strange that he should now be led to take up botanical study as an additional incentive to the regimen prescribed. In 1833 he was elected a member of the N. Y. Lyceum of Natural History, and in 1837 he became its Recording Secretary, and continued to hold that office until a few years previous to his death. At the time of his entrance into this Society, its leading botanical members were Dr. Torrey, John Carey, Samuel T. Carey and Abraham Halsey, to whom soon after was added Dr. Asa Gray—now so pre-eminent. Brought into constant association with such men, Mr. Brownne could not fail to profit by their fellowship, and he became thoroughly versed in the botany of the Northern and Middle States. But his attainments were not limited to that field. He acquired a good knowledge of geology, mineralogy and conchology. His reading became extensive, and his acquaintance with bibliography and numismatics were not often excelled. After the dissolution of the N. Y. High School, he was appointed principal of the parochial school of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, which position he held to the day of his death. His reputation as an expert in mineralogy, conchology, bibliography and numismatics gave him wide employment in the work of arranging and cataloguing collections and libraries. For the last twenty-five years he had acted as librarian for Robert L. Stuart of this city. He was also Secretary of the North-western Dispensary. Modest and unassuming in manner, with every solid virtue and Christian grace, his memory is precious to those who knew him.

J. H. R.

§ 295. ***Aspidium aculeatum* in Pennsylvania.**—During the summer of 1878, Mr. J. P. Crozer Griffith found this fern growing freely in a rocky glen near the south-western corner of Sullivan Co., Pennsylvania. This locality is in a region elevated nearly 2,000 feet above tide, in latitude about $41^{\circ} 15'$. This is considerably farther south than has been noted for its occurrence in the United